

More and more teachers are villified by special interest groups from the Education Industry, who are more concerned about their constituencies of inexperienced reformers and their Know Nothing Tea Party leanings, such as the CBIA, CASA, the current Connecticut Department of Education, Arne Duncan, and other high profile opportunist who want to profit from their positions and could care less about quality educational systems as well as teaching and learning. None of their influences on the current status of education have succeed...even slightly.

I welcome any of the critics of today's teachers to join us. Become a teacher. Live with the standards side-by-side with those in the trenches; I want the intellectual pretenders, who feign to understand the needs of students: the business opportunists, who arrogantly dictate their positions without a clue about teaching; the ambitious "Yes-men" within the universities; the state subsidized RES henchmen; or the grovelling superintendents wanting to improve their resumes.

Let's involve actual teachers. We care more about students than any of the pretenders.

The evaluation system currently in place under the rules of the Connecticut Department of Education, the laws of the Connecticut State Legislature, and the special interests of national education rubes (both federal and special interest) is hurting students and teachers' thus, hurting education in Connecticut. Real reform has to involve practioners. Instead, teachers are villified .

Stop attacking practioners, listen to them. Involve them in change. Stop marginalizing them...because they will fight back in the voting booth. They will opt out of education as a profession and vote down funding for uninspired educational policies.

Teachers must be heard. The Connecticut Department of Education needs intelligent retooling. The Connecticut State Board of Education needs to be replaced. The political system attacking teachers must be challenged on all fronts.

Real change in education needs to happen, but it's not teachers who need to prove their genuine commitment to helping students. It's the disconnected know-it-alls who think they rule the roost. This is where real change needs to occur.

Unless the current evaluation system, Race to the Flop, NCLB...and all of the other foolish policy hoopla are deconstructed, teachers are going to respond. It's time to make real change using the voting booth. Teachers vote. Teachers pay attention. Teachers, their friends and families, will counter-punch and remove the deadwood destroying today's public education system.

Change will occur. We don't need the State Legislature's permission.

Sincerely,

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